

McCULLOCH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Electricity for the Rural Area

February 4, 1993

RECEIVED

Office Of The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 92-265, Program Access

Dear Sir:

I'm enclosing a copy of correspondence recently mailed to all four Commissioners expressing my concern about the Notice of Proposed Rule Making that was released on December 14, specifically as it pertains to the Section 19 programming access provisions of the recently-passed cable bill. I felt you should have this correspondence on file.

Sincerely.

Jeanagavle Bohrens/

Director of Member Services

JB/

Encl.

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The Honorable James Quello Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 92-265, Program Access

Dear Mr. Quello:

I am the Director of Member Services at McCulloch Electric Cooperative. Inc., a consumer-owned, not-for-profit rural utility that provides electric service to some 5000 meters in the heart of Texas. In our service area, the majority of our members are unable to receive cable service due to their remoteness. To have communications with the world, many have invested in expensive satellite dishes and subscribed to programming. The cost for this programming discriminatorily high, on average five times more than what cable operators pay for it, and completely unjustifiable.

My utility, along with hundreds of utilities like it around the country, worked long and hard to secure the inclusion of the cable bill's Section 19 programming access provisions in order to protect our consumers from the cable industry's price-gouging.

This letter is to acquaint you with my concerning about the Notice of Proposed Rule Making that was released from the FCC on December 24, specifically as it pertains to the Section 19 Programming access provisions of the recently-passed cable bill. You indicated that harm against the dish market would have to be established before the FCC could issue regulations to correct it. I assure you that this harm not only exists, but that it is also an ongoing problem which robs hundreds of dollars per year from each of my satellite TV-watching neighbors and consumers. I am a professional and a satellite TV program subscriber and I know the price difference is for real.



Electricity for the Rural Area

I urge you to once again review the duty the U.S. Congress charged you with: namely to issue regulations which will encourage competition in the video marketplace and bring an end to the unjustifiable discrimination against the non-cable video marketplace by cable-owned programmers. On behalf of the thousands of home satellite dish owners living in rural Texas. I hope your final rule fulfills this obligation.

Sincerely,

Jeanagayle Behrens Director of Member Services

JB/

co: Office Of the Secretary, FCC